(b) if so, the quantum of such potentiality;

(c) whether any special provisions have been made in the Tenth Five Year Plan for the utilization and development of this potentiality; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) The then Hill Development Department of Government of Uttar Pradesh had assessed the potential for producing temperate fruits in the eight hill districts of the State which are now part of Uttaranchal State.

(b) As per the assessment there is potential for producing four lakh tonnes of temperate fruits in the State.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the Tenth Plan, it is proposed to bring in additional 25,000 hectares under fruit cultivation in Uttaranchal State covering fruits like apple, pear, peaches, plum and apricot.

Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi

*518. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi collected from students of Kendriya Vidyalayas is meant to be spent for improving physical facilities in each Vidyalaya ;

(b) if so, the circumstances which prompted the Headquarters to direct all the Vidyalayas to deposit, in February, 2003, the accumulated amounts to their respective Regional Offices;

(c) whether these funds are being diverted for opening new Kendriya Vidyalayas; and

(d) if so, its justifications?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi (VVN) collected from students of the Kendriya Vidyalayas is utilized for school development on

items listed in the scheme such as lab equipments, teaching aids, sports equipments, maintenance and repairs of school building, horticulture etc.

(b) to (d) Since the funds collected during previous years for VVN could not be fully spent by the Vidyalayas, they were required to deposit the unspent amount as on 31st March, 2002 with the Regional Offices. This was done with a view to utilize these funds for creating temporary infrastructure in some newly opened schools. It would enable KVS to impart quality education to about one lakh more students in all areas and particularly in remote and backward areas. The new schools are being staffed by redeploying the surplus staff. The permanent buildings, however, will be constructed only out of the plan grants from Government of India.

Conversion of waste plastic into fuels

*519. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Nagpur based Scientist has successfully invented a unique process converting waste plastic into fuels;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) whether this invented fuel is environment friendly?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) As per the information available, Professor Alka Umesh Zadgaonkar, Head of the Department of Applied Chemistry in GH Raisoni College of Engineering, Nagpur has worked out a process for conversion of waste plastic into fuels. The salient process features include :

- Feeding of shredded plastic waste into a reactor.
- When the shredded plastic is heated at 350 degree centigrade in the presence of a catalyst it forms a mixed fuel.
- In the second stage when the mixed fuel is subjected to fractional distillation it forms petrol (50%) kerosene (20%) diesel (25%) and lubricating oil (5%).

The liquid fuel obtained from this process is stated to contain insignificant concentrations of sulphur and nitrogen, which is comparable with natural gasoline in its quality parameters.